

The Jewish Herald

Third Year

HOUSTON, TEXAS, DECEMBER 15, 1910

No. 13

A HOUSE OF CARDS.

(By Mrs. B. Lurie.)

Part II. CHAPTER IV.

As Mr. Clemens had occasion to recount all that transpired during the progress of the settlement, it may be best to let him continue Bessie Winthrop's history and the impression she made on him. The trouble in which the Harris family were so vitally concerned occurred in September and was not adjusted to the entire satisfaction of Mr. Clemens till the last of November. The following January he wrote a detailed account of the whole transaction to a friend of his, Harold Risley, of the law firm of Risley, Cook and Burke of Philadelphia, Penn.

We will take up the thread of this narrative with Mr. Clemens in answer to a communication from Mr. Risley: "Dear Hal—Your letter to hand and contents noted with deepest interest. Your confidence in my ability to settle your present difficulty touches me to the heart, although I think you are mistaken in this instance. As you say, your past indifference to women in general is a singular disadvantage in your predicament, still, from my 'successes,' as you are pleased to term them, I can hardly recount any experience but a decidedly recent one which may be of benefit to you at present. The only drawback is that the story is such a long one and the events have touched me so much to the quick that, were it not for the fact of our great regard for each other, I would never consent to bare my heart to any one else as I propose to do for your benefit. It may take me several days before I can transcribe the whole and send it to you, but I will do my best and not keep you waiting too long. I know what delay means in a case like yours. In the meanwhile accept, with full confidence, my assurances of profound sympathy. For the sake of your family connection, I wish it might have been otherwise. But love, unfortunately, is like the wind, 'it bloweth where it listeth.' I send my respectful regards to your estimable mother and sisters. Also my best wishes to you that your suit may have a happy termination.

"In a week, at the outside, you may look for a bulky envelope, the contents of which may be of the assistance you crave.

"As of old, your sincere friend and admirer,

"Robert Clemens."

That same evening, Mr. Clemens excused himself immediately after supper and repaired to his room. His little son was rather disappointed that papa was not to pay with him as usual and his wife made a wry face when cautioned that on no pretext was he to be disturbed, as he had an important letter to answer. Once in his room, he drew writing materials to him and set industriously to work.

"Dear, Dear Old Boy—Were it not for the tragedy that now threatens the life and happiness of the man whom I esteem most above his fellows, I would never take the trouble to which I am about to put myself. As I sit here, I begin to question myself if your knowledge of my case will prove of the assistance I had hoped it would when I promised I would tell you of it. The only reason I had for saying so was that I had become involved with a Jewess just as you state you are. The difference in the two is that in my case she was a married woman, while in yours she is still single, and from your description, eligible. A difference with a vengeance, you must admit. But the main points, touching on the religious and social aspects, are ever similar, and were fully brought to the surface in my affair. These appear to constitute the most serious objections in your suit, as I gather from your letter. You say that the young lady is head stenographer in your office, and 'a woman of exception, almost startling ability.' Also that her temperament appeals irresistibly to you, much more so than any other woman's with whom you have been thrown in contact socially. I can well believe you. The women of our social circle are more famed for personal graces than a display of exceptional mental traits. Their butterfly existence is not conducive to a development of the qualities you admire so in your Jewish sweetheart. I understand that the young lady is not wholly indifferent to you. It would surprise me were it otherwise. Any woman may well esteem it a compliment to win the regard of a man of your marked abilities, position and social standing. And still you say all these are as naught to her when weighed in the balance against an old-fashioned father and mother of the strictly Orthodox type. What amused me immensely was your statement that so religious is her mother that she even wears a wig instead of her own hair. To what purpose, I can't conceive, of course, as it was never be-

fore brought to my notice as a religious adjunct. But I am now sufficiently interested to find out the reason. I suppose there is a good one, or else the Jews would not lay such stress on it. I know the Mohammedans swear by their beards, holding that a luxuriant beard is a sign of general health, a great blessing from Allah. And I agree with them, for in case of bodily decay, the first ravages of attack become apparent in loss of hair. The Chinaman expects to be pulled into heaven by his queue, but the Jewish women's wig is beyond me. I'll find out, as the Jews are no fools.

"You say that your own family's

objections to such a union could be more vigorous than those that will be urged by this young lady's. Queer, isn't it, in the very last analysis? But let me assure you, worthy of all consideration for the sake of the future.

"I will now begin my narrative and endeavor to bring out how disregard of these distinctions worked havoc in the lives of two families. I am sure you will be able to draw suitable conclusions and guide your future conduct accordingly.

(To be continued.)

The best people in the State subscribe for the Jewish Herald. Are you one of them?

Xmas Gifts

Parrish's New Book Store is headquarters for all kinds of Xmas Gifts. These goods are all new and of the best quality and especially suitable for Father, Mother, Sweetheart, Brother and Sister. Special prices for Sunday Schools and churches. Our Xmas line of goods consist of

NEW THINGS IN

Sterling Silver and Ebony Toilet Sets, Manicure Sets, Shaving Sets, Traveling Sets, Smoking Sets, Ladies' Hand Bags and other fine leather goods; society Stationery, Holly Boxes, Hand Painted Art Calendars, Fine Pictures in Pastel, Water-Colors and Carbon Copies, Conklin's Self-Filling Fountain Pens, Fancy Work and Baby Baskets, Hand Painted China.

The new Teco Ware, Brass Craft; Triple and other handsome Mirrors, Post Card and Kodak Albums. All kinds of finely bound books and Xmas Books for children and young folks as well as the new publications. A large line of Bibles in all styles and bindings, with all the helps. A splendid line of Dictionaries and stands. A fine line of Brass Umbrella and Cigar Stands and Brass Jardinieres.

Do not fail to call and see our New Line of Holiday Goods. Will be glad to show you and aid you in your selections as we make a study of suggesting something suitable for you various needs. You are welcome at our store whether you buy or not. Trusting you will give us the pleasure of showing you.

Parrish's New Book Store

615 MAIN STREET

JAPANESE GOODS

Comprising High Grade Hand Painted Porcelains, A Large variety of Kimonos, Toys and Novelties

Try our SANDAL WOOD FANS and SANDAL SLIPPERS

THEY WILL SURELY PLEASE YOU

We are Here to Stay

Japan Art & Tea Co.

PHONE PRESTON 2538

620 MAIN COR. CAPITOL